

them. These are the soldiers in the armies of compassion. These are the people whose calling exists because of the church or the synagogue or the mosque, but people who are intent upon helping young people make the right choices in life.

You know, it's amazing, as I travel around the country I hear from people at the grassroots level who have gotten the message. Sometimes it seems like, to me, the word hasn't quite gotten up to Washington, DC. And it's time for Congress to pass legislation to rally the faith-based programs, so they can stand side by side with those folks in the community who are trying to bring peace and law and order, the people who wear the uniform.

A bill came out of the House of Representatives the other day, and I had a good meeting with Senator Lieberman and Senator Santorum, talking about making sure that the Faith-Based Initiative continues its momentum. It's the right thing to do for America. It is the next step beyond welfare. It is a way to recognize there are still people who are hopeless, people who need help. And it's making sure the American Dream extends its reach in all neighborhoods.

We must call upon all folks, all people who are willing to help change lives in a positive way. Listen, this is a great country, and the reason it's a great country is because it's full of so many decent and honorable and loving citizens. It's a great country because there's love in a lot of people's

hearts. It's a great country, and we must rally the greatness of the country, and that's our people. And it's a great country, as well, because there are thousands of people who are willing to serve a concept greater than themselves in life. And there's no greater concept in life than to try to bring peace to neighborhoods. There's no greater concept than to take risk, like the men and women who wear the uniform do on a daily basis.

And so I'm here to thank you for your work. I'm here to tell you, this is a Government that stands by your side, a Government that understands that an educated child is going to make your job a lot easier, but a Government that also understands that as we rally the community and faith-based programs—interface with people—it's going to make America a much more compassionate and decent and hopeful land.

Again, I'm so honored that you invited me here. Thank you for hearing me out, and may God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:30 p.m. in the Marriott Ballroom at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Ida L. Gillis, national president, Maurice Foster, executive director, Leonard G. Cooke, national vice president, and Hubert T. Bell, Jr., special assistant to the president, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives; and Charles H. Ramsey, chief of police, Washington, DC.

Videotaped Remarks to the Boy Scouts of America National Jamboree *July 30, 2001*

Hello, Boy Scouts, and thanks for this opportunity to send a word of greeting to your National Jamboree. Let me also thank General Colby Broadwater and the fine men and women of Fort A.P. Hill for hosting this event.

I'm so sorry the weather didn't allow me to join you in person, but I wanted to say a few words to the Scouts and Scoutmasters who have come to this jamboree from all across the country.

You know, next month I'll be going to my ranch in Crawford, where I'll work and take a little time off. I think it is so important for a President to spend some time away from Washington in the heartland of America. And whenever I go home to the heartland, I am reminded of the values that build strong families, strong communities, and strong character, the values that make our people unique.

It is those values that are such an important part of Boy Scouts. And I want to thank the adults here who have shown good values, who have taken the responsibility upon yourself to build the wisdom and character of our young people. And the Scoutmasters of America accept this responsibility every day. I want to thank all the Scoutmasters who set a good example and help Scouts learn the values that give direction to their lives.

When you join a Scout troop and put on the Boy Scout uniform, you, too, make a statement. Like every uniform, yours is a symbol of commitment. It is a sign to all that you believe in high standards and that you are trying to live up to them every single day. As you do that, you bring credit to the Scout uniform and credit to your country. And I want you to know your country is proud of you.

Many of you have been to Washington this past week, maybe for the first time. You know, it's interesting, one of my predecessors, President Gerald Ford, saw Washington for the first time a few years after he became an Eagle Scout. Back then, in the thirties, Scouts helped collect food and clothing for people suffering from the Great Depression.

In our own time, you all have taken the lead in the fight against drug abuse. In

Texas, Boy Scouts were among the first to take up a reading challenge that I set. All across America, Boy Scouts are doing good turns daily. And every time you do a good turn, this becomes a better country. There are needs in every community, and those needs can be met one heart, one soul at a time.

You can make a difference for America by the life you lead and the lives you serve. Times and challenges change, yet the values of Scouting will never change. Scouts of any era would recognize every word that you live by today, because those words have always defined Scouting. The goodness of a person and of the society he or she lives in often comes down to very simple things and words found in the Scout law. Every society depends on trust and loyalty, on courtesy and kindness, on bravery and reverence. These are the values of Scouting and these are the values of America.

What you have learned in Scouting will see you through life. In good times and difficult ones, the Scout motto will always help you: Be prepared. And whatever you do, the Scout oath will always guide you: On your honor, do your best.

I thank every Scout and Scoutmaster for being a part of this great organization and for being a part of this successful jamboree. May God bless you all, and may God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President's remarks were videotaped at approximately 2:30 p.m. in the Map Room for later transmission to the jamboree in Bowling Green, VA. In his remarks, he referred to Maj. Gen. Colby M. Broadwater III, USA, Acting Commander, 1st U.S. Army. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.